Sl. No.	Name of the High Courts	1995 Civil	1995 Criminal	1995 Total	1996 Civil	1996 Criminal	1996 Total	1997 Civil	1997 Criminal	1997 Total
4.	Calcutta	232737	21632	254369	241719	22593	264312	253028	29181	282209
5.	Delhi	139554	8658	148212	143256	10281	153537	153611	12244	165855 (upto 6/97)
6.	Gauhati	27456	3915	31371	28756	4262	33018	29706	4459	34165
7.	Gujarat*	92563	15841	108404	101266	21842	123108	97960	25006	122966
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17492	2944	20436	14161	3005	17166	10748	2604	13352
9.	J & K	89051	4649	93700	92282	4132	96414	95073	3572	98645
10.	Karnataka	156484	5009	161493	144735	6230	150965	130119	5270	135389
11.	Kerala	190849	6174	197023	210303	7520	217823	241057	9204	250261
12.	Madhya pradesh	56605	29537	86142	52652	29642	82294	50161	31853	82014 (upto 6/97)
13.	Madras	280155	22206	302361	289473	21167	310640	304286	22333	326619
14.	Orissa	47153	4789	51942	61170	5650	66820	78256	6641	84897
15.	Patna	73753	21692	95445	73439	19871	93310	72810	11856	84666
16.	Punjab & Haryana	120351	29684	150035	132506	29056	161562	142708	27963	170671
17.	Rajasthan	75819	19549	95368	76083	21685	97768	78668	19748	98416
18.	Sikkim	64	6	70	84	4	88	85	10	95
		2628491	352151	2980642	2736410	367549	3103959	2085937	234376	2320313

*Indicates break-up of Main & Miscellaneous cases.

Supreme Court	No. of cases pending Civil	Criminal	Total
As on			
1.5.96	24457	4586	29043
1.5.97	17737	3810	21547
1.5.98	16167	3394	19561

Rising prices of Commodities

*92. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite low rates of inflation recorded in recent weeks, the prices of most of commodities are still too high for the common man;

(b) if so, the reasons for this paradoxical situation; and

(c) the trends of Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflation from month to month since April, 1997 and the comparative figures for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) There was a seasonal spurt in the prices of a few commodities-mostly fruits and vegetables, even though inflation rate remained low for much of 1997-98. The wholesale prices of 30 essential commodities increased by 8.4 per cent during the first seven weeks of 1998-99. Much of this rise was on account of a very sharp increase in the prices of potatoes (315%), onions (17.6%) and Tea (28.4%). Decline in the production of potatoes, fruits (mango etc.) and vegetables due to prolonged cold and wet spell in Nov.-Dec. 1997 was the main reason for shortfall in market arrivals and consequent price increase.

The trend of rise in the prices of essential commodities is listed below:

Annual Inflation Rate in Essential Commodities (as on 16.05.1998)

	Commodities	weight(%)	Price rise(%)
High Price rise (more than 10%)	Potatoes	0.47	315.0
	Tea	0.56	28.4
	Onions	0.16	17.6

	Commodities	weight(%)	Price rise(%)
	Chillies (dry)	0.32	17.8
	Rape & Mustard Oil	0.27	15.9
	Arhar	0.27	14.2
	Fish	0.51	14.2
	Gur	1.75	12.0
	Salt	0.04	10.7
Price rise	Milk	1.96	9.3
(5—10%)	Masur	0.05	8.0
	Groundnut oil	0.56	7.3
Falling Prices	Bajra	0.18	18.7
(more than 5%)	Coconut Oil	0.17	14.2
	Jowar	0.42	10.8
	Gram	0.41	10.2
	Urad	0.15	6.3

(c) Monthly trend of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers and inflation rate based on this index for three years is listed below:

	1997-98		1996-97		1995-96	
	CPI Index (1982=100)	Inflation Rate(%)	CPI Index	Inflation Rate(%)	CPI Index	Inflation Rate(%)
April	354	9.3	324	9.8	295	9.7
May	352	7.3	328	9.3	300	10.3
June	355	6.6	333	8.8	306	10.5
July	358	5.6	339	8.0	313	11.4
August	359	4.7	343	8.9	315	10.9
September	361	4.9	344	8.5	317	10.1
October	365	5.5	346	8.5	319	10.4
November	366	4.9	349	8.7	321	10.3
December	372	6.3	350	10.4	317	9.7
January	384	9.7	350	11.1	315	9.0
February	382	9.1	350	10.8	316	8.6
March	380	8.3	351	10.0	319	8.9

Schemes for Educational Loans by Banks

*93. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised and scheduled banks have schemes of educational loans for students pursuing higher studies in India and abroad;

(b) if so, details of eligibility, limits, repayments, interest payable etc. thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the student applicants are asked for furnishing difficult securities etc.; and

(d) if so, its need and justification thereof?